

WRESTLING FORUM

APRIL 30, 1990

VOLUME VI

ISSUE 4

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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But First, a Word from our Sponsor...

Well, no one has exactly set the wrestling world on fire here in the last two weeks. It's been pretty quiet, but we'll still try to find something to fill up the mountain of blank pages I've found in front of me.

This is *Wrestling Forum*, Wrestling's Best Kept Secret. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail about the next day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at one time. Send all results, news, renewals, gift subscriptions, and other pertinent information to: **WRESTLING FORUM , BOX 65M KNOXVILLE, IL 61448**, unless otherwise specifically noted.

For those of you who have been paying attention, you already know we're in the middle of a subscription drive. The result of this subscription drive will determine just how long we continue to publish. If you get a friend to subscribe, you'll get one issue added to your subscription for every four issues they order. At the bottom of the Miscellaneous Stuff section (last page) is a graph that shows how were doing on the subscription drive. We need to fill that circle completely or we probably will discontinue the Forum after the first of the year.

We had planned on mailing the yearbook out with this issue, but you know what they say about the best laid plans. The printer assures me it will be ready to go by next issue. Part of the problem was some stuff that I took in to include after I dropped it off, telling him it was completely finished. If you haven't ordered it, it's probably too late now, but a phone call to me will find out for sure.

I apologize for not being available on the phone as much as I have been. The best time to get hold of me is in the mornings. With baseball season here, I've started umpiring games locally and I'll be gone quite a bit at night. I also have an offer for a small tour of my magic show, and I'm considering that. I should be able to give you an idea of best time to call with next issue.

We're a little smaller than usual this time. We had to reduce the bulletin by four pages because some of the regular features just didn't make it in on time. I didn't want to hold up production any longer than I had to, so the result is minus four pages. They will return next issue.

That's all for the gab session. We'll take a look at the latest round of the Wrestling Forum Tournament before getting on to the rest of the news.

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FIFTH ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

by Sean Grande

The results are in for the semi final round of the Fifth Annual Wrestling Forum Tournament. Here are the winners and losers according to your votes:

Curt Hennig downed Owen Hart 18-8 (3 draws)
Ric Flair cashed in Ted DiBiase 22-7
Bret Hart outlasted Randy Savage 18-11
Great Muta dumped Rick Steiner 16-13

THAT BRINGS US TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND AND
THE FOLLOWING MATCHUPS:

FOR SEVENTH PLACE

RICK STEINER VS RANDY SAVAGE

FOR FIFTH PLACE

BRET HART VS GREAT MUTA

FOR THIRD PLACE

OWEN HART VS TED DIBIASE

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

RIC FLAIR VS CURT HENNIG

Voting is simple. Pick the wrestler you think would win this imaginary match up and send that list of winners to the address below. We'll give the results of the tournament in the May 15 edition of Wrestling Forum

Deadline for votes is 5/12/91. Send your votes to:

SEAN GRANDE
726 COMMONWEALTH AVE
BOX 4-S
BOSTON, MA 02215

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I•N•D•E•P•E•N•D•E•N•T•L•Y S•P•E•A•K•I•N•G

The Sunshine Wrestling Alliance in Florida has stopped running weekly shows as they have been for the past several months. There is no set schedule of shows as of this moment, but they will continue to run shows at least monthly.

Rob Russen and his International Wrestling Association will be touring Australia later this summer. It's not really a tour since all the shows will take place at the same place, but they do have fourteen dates booked. The group will run matches at Wonderland, a large theme park down under. Russen claims that he is also working on a tour of Europe and Africa. Those scheduled for Australia include Paul Orndorff, Larry the Butcher Cameron, Derrick Dukes and Kamala among others.

The Tribune Company in Chicago, who own WGN radio and TV as well as the *Chicago Tribune* are putting out feelers again. Several times over the past three years, they have gone shopping for a wrestling promotion to purchase or start. One source within the company told me, "Don't read anything into it; I think they shove this project off on somebody every so often just to give them something to do."

Jim Cornette may be attempting to do some Black Scorpion type magic in the next month...he's scheduled to be on a Joel Goodhart show in Philadelphia on 5/18, but that same day he's scheduled to do a TV taping for the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association in Las Vegas. We're not sure which show he'll pop up at, but it's doubtful that he's found a way to be in two places at once.

Out in California, we've gotten reports that an independent card was run with Abdullah the Butcher and Zeus on top. Zeus is the same guy whom you'll remember was too horrible, even for the WWF to use.

Scattered reports have come in on the ladies wrestling PPV that was to have been in 3-D. Several readers report that their cable system ended up not carrying it, others said they forgot it was on, and one caller said they say it, but didn't pay much attention because of a distorted picture.

PENCIL POINT

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A FORUM PROPHECY

I was just going over some old *Forums* the other day and found something interesting. I know it was you who came up with the wrestler and computer idea that Mike Rotundo used as Michael Wallstreet. But I have a feeling that Mike is a regular reader of the *Forum* and that he gets his ideas for his gimmicks directly from you.

In the January 15, 1990 edition, a year before it happened, you gave a list of top ten gimmicks that the WWF hadn't used yet. Your number 8 suggestion is as follows: "IRS Agent - no doubt a jobber if Vince has anything to say about it. He could threaten to audit anyone he beats."

I think Mr. Rotundo owes you a couple of royalty checks.

•KIM WEAVER•

•URBANA, IL•

SUPERBRAWL

It's about time Dusty finally made a good move matching Sting & Luger vs the Steiners at Superbrawl. Other than that, he's still doing a lousy job. He's giving Dustin too much of a push too early. Dustin may be a much better wrestler than his dad, but he's still not been made a big enough name to be given clean wins over Larry Zbyszko and Terry Taylor.

What I would do with the Sting/Luger vs Steiners match is to have the Steiners retain the belts by pinning Sting and have Luger turn heel on him because he's getting a little soft. Luger's a natural heel anyway and with Sid leaving, making Lex or Koloff the next Horseman would also be a good move. Ted Turner better do something about Rhodes or he's going to take WCW right down the drain.

Someone better teach Sid how to wrestle before he gets in the ring with Hogan or they'll just look like two big goofs stumbling around the ring. I hope Sid learns how to wrestle because he'd make a great monster challenger for Hogan.

•ED BILODEAU•

•PORTLAND, ME•

SID VICIOUS

I'm glad to see that Sid Vicious is leaving the NWA. It's not so much that I'm glad to see him going to the WWF or that the NWA won't miss him, but had he resigned with the NWA, it would have set a dangerous precedent that might have destroyed wrestling.

I realize that there have been other athletes from other sports who have asked to renegotiate their contracts, but that's different. If Jose Canseco asked

to renegotiate and the A's refused, he couldn't just quit baseball. There would be lawsuits and fines and everything else. If the NWA had renegotiated with Vicious, other wrestlers would have jumped in line. How long would the renegotiated contract last? A month? Six months?

The WWF will get Vicious now and have to put up with his inflated opinion of himself. How long will it be before Sid pulls on the ski mask, grabs the sawed off shotgun and holds up the WWF bank?

I miss the old days, when, if Vicious had pulled this crap he'd be blackballed from wrestling. He'd be making \$3.85 an hour saying, "You want some fries or a hot apple pie with that?"

•KEN SNIDER•

•WAUKEGAN, IL•

STEREOTYPES

In reference to the recent letter in Pencil Points about black wrestlers being typecast, this is a fascinating issue that should be addressed. My first reaction was to not only accept the premise, I agree that the stereotyping occurs and is wrong) but I now know why it occurs. With whites, we have distinction by nationality. But, race knows no nationality. It is unfortunate but, no wrestling fan is going to "buy" a black Russian, Italian, Swede, etc., not that it is right, but blacks are actually limited in how they can be portrayed because of their race. Again, they are not alone. Ugly wrestlers can only be portrayed as heels. Bam Bam Bigelow, for example, is a great heel and a terrible baby. That's prejudiced, but it's also reality. We can all laugh at Buddy Rose, but he'd never make it as a baby.

With your fertile mind, and maybe the help of your readers, let's come up with an angle for a respectable black man with championship material who is devoid of black stereotype moves.

•DAVID PORISS•

•FARMINGTON, CT•

I have to agree with your letter writer who talked about black wrestlers (Gee, it's nice to read somebody who's not a horse's ass when he doesn't like something). Hopefully, what World Championship Wrestling is doing right now with Ron Simmons, i.e. pushing him as a great athlete rather than a black with a past, will change things for the better. WCW could do worse if they chose a lot of other wrestlers to push. Try to accept this without it sounding racial, but I think Ron Simmons would be the best choice for the first black world's champion.

•ERIC HOYME•

•INDIANAPOLIS, IN•

World Championship Wrestling

They are taking a page directly from the WWF manual on how to promote a Pay Per View. If things go the way they look to be going, this will be WCW's most successful PPV of all time.

The hype for the coming show started well in advance of the usual six week period. Individual matches are being pushed with various segments of the TBS and syndicated shows being devoted to a particular match. This is slightly different from the usual hodgepodge with the announcers trying to sell every match at once. This way, each match is being sold individually with the viewer getting the impression that each match is worth the price of the PPV in itself. The theory is that by doing this, when fans put all the individual matches together, they won't be able to pass up the PPV.

Wrestlemania was basically sold as a one match card with a bunch of others thrown in. That is exactly what WCW is trying to stay away from.

The one match that I'm really looking forward to is the Steiners vs Sting & Luger. It has me hooked on two counts. First, three of the four are excellent wrestlers and the fourth can be carried to a tremendous match. Secondly, I'm interested in seeing just how they book the finish. As I understand it, there will be no angle preceding the match to set either team up as a heel. The Steiners did an interview this past weekend that sure made them sound like heels, though. Rick said that people make mistakes and Luger and Sting's mistake was wanting to get in the ring with them. Scott said, "We're gonna take your heads off!"

Another match that I'm looking forward to is the Sid Vicious vs El Gigante match. Certainly it's not for the work we're sure to see, but for the booking of this one as well. The latest I've heard is that Vicious plans to show up at the card, but whether or not he will is another story. If he does show, the other question is, will he do the stretcher job for Gigante?

Time for me to play booker for a second...Let's say that Vicious doesn't show up. I would go ahead and send Gigante to the ring. Let him be announced. Then have the ring announcer intro Vicious. The music plays, but no Vicious. The music stops. He's introduced again. Music. No Vicious. One more time with the intro, music and this time one of the other Horsemen comes to the ring in street clothes. That Horseman (Anderson would probably be the best choice) would explain on the house mike that Vicious had been in the dressing room and in a weird mood. He started shaking. Then crying. He got up and dressed as fast as a guy could dress and hightailed it out of the building. Arn completes the burial of Vicious by telling everyone that Vicious, due to his cowardly act, has been kicked out of the Horsemen. Gigante wins via forfeit.

In reality, Sid has been pulled off all house shows with pay. The deal was made so that he'll show up at the PPV card. If I understand it correctly,

they will continue to pay him, even though he doesn't work, but he won't get the check until he shows at the 5/19 card. They've told him that he'll have to do the stretcher job for Gigante and he has agreed to do so, but you have to remember that this is professional wrestling we're talking about here and promises are made to be broken.

In addition to the matches on the PPV that we listed last issue, there will be two interview spots featured. Paul E Dangerously will have a Danger Zone with Stan Hansen as a guest and Dallas Page will do a Diamond Mine with Lex Luger and Sting. I don't know what it is about Page, but there's something about him I just don't like. It's been that way since I saw him in the AWA. I tell you this so you know it's hard for me to be objective about him.

This past weekend on TBS featured a two hour show on Saturday night and Sunday night as well. Just a few notes on some of the more interesting spots...

Van Vader had a squash match against Hustler Rip Rogers. Rogers attacked him before the bell and before he had a chance to do his steam shooting ceremony. Vader grabbed him, put his head over his headgear, and set off the steam. Twice. Rogers sold the steam to the max. Nice touch.

Brian Pillman and Barry Windham had a very good match to set up their taped fist match at Superbrawl. They look like they've been working together enough to make an excellent match for the PPV. I only hope that the taped fist stipulation doesn't spoil things.

They also showed parts of the Flair-Fujinami match from the Japan supershow. Flair bled quite a bit and on the Saturday version, they had a black circle following his head around so you couldn't see the blood. On the Sunday version, as soon as Flair bladed, they put up a graphic that said that due to the graphic nature of the match, the conclusion could not be shown on TBS. I called my source at WCW and asked if they had planned the graphic in advance of Sunday night or if Saturday's shows had generated enough phone calls in protest. I was told that it had been planned in advance.

I look for Nikita Koloff to take the US title from Lex Luger sometime between now and Superbrawl. The reason for this is that Luger is wrestling in the tag match and because they've been doing some hinting that it will happen.

Sid Vicious' squash match this weekend was against a guy who could have made Bill Dundee look big. I'd be surprised if he was over 5'5 and weighed any more than 170 pounds. They put him in with Vicious, of course, to make Sid look like more of a monster than what he is. Next time, though, they should make sure the referee is about the same size as the wrestler instead of twice as big.

Oh, by the way, I can't let this slip by. World Championship Wrestling has taken the time to respond to a blurb I wrote a couple of issues back. They are swearing that Dusty Rhodes will not be returning to the ring during the Great American Bash tour, nor will he be challenging or winning the title

from Ric Flair. My reply was, "Does that mean he doesn't *want* to do it, or you all won't let him do it?" Their response was that he was hired as booker, not as a wrestler. So there you have it from the horse's mouth. My trouble is, I can't tell one end of the horse from the other.

Black Bart is in and from the looks of things, will be forming a tag team along with Dutch Mantell and Randy Culley. Plans are for them to call themselves "Desperados" and it is supposed to be a comedy heel team.

Other newcomers will include Steve Austin who had a great feud with Chris Adams last year in the World Class area. He's going to be a heel and he'll have Veronica Lane (she was with Scotty the Body in Portland) as a manager.

Lance Russell has been pulled from the syndicated show. We're not sure if this means he'll be completely out of a job or not. I'm pretty sure that if he is, Memphis would love to have him back. Lance was one of the best announcers in the business when he worked Memphis, but he lost a lot when he joined the NWA and had to push their heavily hyped product. It didn't seem natural for Lance and as a result, he never lived up to the potential he had. Lance's natural style is to be sort of laid back and not to take verbal crap from the wrestlers. He's at his best when he's acting totally disgusted with a situation or wrestler.

I don't think I can handle this next. It has to be Jim Herd's idea, because no one else in the world of wrestling could come up with something so stupid. Two wrestlers called Oz and Merlin (one is Kevin Sullivan and I can't remember who the other is supposed to be) will make their debut at the next Clash. Unless this is a gigantic joke (and a very unfunny joke) they will debut them with an Emerald City, Dorothy and crew plus Munchkins (I understand Bill Dundee is ecstatic about the possibility of work here). I got this info from a caller over the weekend, and I'm not sure if he's been reading *Weekly World News* or what.

The Next Clash is scheduled for 6/12 in the other Knoxville (TN). Ric Flair is to defend his title (that tell you anything about the ending of the PPV match with Fujinami?) against Bobby Eaton.

On the TBS show you'll be seeing this weekend, Paul E Dangerously and Missy Hyatt are both attempting to interview Ric Flair. They are interrupted with someone who has a letter for Missy saying her father is seriously ill. She runs off and then finds out it was Paul E who wrote the letter. She returns and beats the snot out of him.

The Bash tour will begin on 7/4 at the Meadowlands and run through August. They will not be doing outside shows this year and they will not be running shows with country western bands as they had in years past. Dusty had wanted to, but it was decided that the bands didn't put a single extra person in the seats, so the idea was dropped.

In This Corner

A Guest Editorial

STEREOTYPES AND WRESTLING

by Pat Rafferty
Baltimore, MD

I must agree with the person from Norfolk, VA who recently wrote a letter to Pencil Points ("Blacks in Wrestling" 4/30/91, V515). I have also felt the same way during the many years of being a wrestling fan.

Blacks have been, and probably will continue to be stereotyped in this business, and the fault may be in a few areas. Promoters, m will continue to book in this manner as long as they feel this will translate into dollars. Ultimately, the fans determine future courses of booking because of the way they have responded, dollar-wise, to house shows, PPVs and souvenirs. Since it is very hard to make a living in the business, I can not blame the black wrestlers who have had to go along with the character that was designed for them, although, i applaud anyone who has stood up and shown pride over the almighty dollar. but I can bet that they are not currently working.

It is probably sage to say that Titan has been the most blatant purveyor of this practice. It is even more frightening to think that since Vince targets 12 year old marks, what kind of message does this send? SLICK: All black managers were former pimps and drug dealers? COCO BRAZIL & JUNK YARD DOG: A black man's head is harder than diamonds? SAPPHIRE: Black women are illiterate? It's more scary than Sherri, to even think about.

The Virgil angle was bad enough, but when Piper acted like he had to help Virgil utter simple words and help gather his intestinal fortitude, this again was a sublime dig toward blacks. Vince had a field day with Butch Reed and a bottle of peroxide. I can't really blame Vince for the Bad News character since Allen developed that himself, but Vince certainly embellished it to the hilt.

Ole and the NWA/WCW have their fair share also: Rocky King shuckin' and jivin' as Little Richard Marley; turning the great heel manager, Teddy Long, into Dancin' Teddy Long. At least the Colonel DeBeers vs Derrick Dukes paint vs paint feud in the ALA was booked to fuel hatred and chuckles. Racism more so than stereotyping, but are the two really inseparable?

I think that wrestling, now more than ever, is seen in many households, and it is in the forefront of the entertainment media, with all of the hype, i.e. Wrestlemania, NBC Main Events, and WWF merchandise (is there a WWF condom yet?). Enough so,

to capture the attention of those who routinely fight racism. So why have they not taken action? Do they think that since most people know wrestling is worked, that these characters do not influence young children and, judging "From the Cheap Seats", older marks as well? If they put the same heat on promoters that they put on affirmative action and other topics, this would definitely get the attention of the Federations, media, and the fans. So that I am not accused of an "about face", I must admit that this is professional wrestling, in which anything, regardless of taste, is possible.

Again, the person from Norfolk is right on the money when discussing the inevitability of a character such as the Watermelon Man, or another black wrestler who is forced to take a bucket of fried chicken to the ring.

There is nothing wrong with ethnic pride. Ivan Putski had Polish Power (and that's about all he had, I might add). Salvatore Bellomo had Italian Pride, but he never had to carry a plate of pasta and a bottle of vino to the ring. Stereotyping, unfortunately, has given success to character development, but I would like to dispel the following: Germans do not run around applying claw holds; Inhabitants of the South Pacific do not make the "Big Splash" part of love making; New Zealanders do not start and end the day with a plate of sardines; Korean Chefs do not prepare Dog Cordon Bleu...

So why must black wrestlers always be portrayed as hard headed, illiterate, dancin' fools?

Wrestling needs more wrestlers like Ron Simmons. he is in great shape, he is a good worker. He's a great babyface or heel and he doesn't come off as a militant or an Uncle Tom. He is not a great *black* wrestler or champion. He is just a great wrestler period.

□ □ □

Got a subject you'd like to expand on?

Be our GUEST!

Our Guest editorialist, that is!

Guest editorials can run anywhere from 500-100 words and can be on any subject you feel is important to wrestling.

Please, no imaginary federations or "what I would do as booker" type articles please.

Submissions will be considered, but we can't pay for nor return submissions. Send them along to our regular address.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity, spelling, length and grammar.

Thanks!

BIO

SID VICIOUS
REAL NAME: SIDNEY EUDY
YEAR DEBUTED: 1987
AGE: 31

A monster specimen (6' 8, 300+ lbs), Eudy began working in the now defunct Continental area. He was called Lord Humongous there, where he wore a hockey mask doing a Jason (from Friday the 13th) gimmick.

Due to the gimmick and his size, he worked as a heel from the beginning. He quickly became the lead heel. Toward the end of his run there, he turned babyface and had a short run in that role.

In October of 1988, Sid moved to the Memphis area and took the name Sid Vicious for the first time. Although his ring work was still lacking and his interviews seemed forced, his physique and charisma impressed the fans in the area. Here, he worked as a heel, exclusively as such this time.

From there, he went to the NWA where he was cast in the role of a killer heel. He team with Dangerous Dan Spivey to become part of the Skyscraper tag team and later with Mean Mark Callous.

During a match with the Steiner Brothers on a WTBS Clash of Champions, Sid was the victim of a bearhug suplex. The result was a broken rib that punctured one of Sid's lungs. He collapsed later in the week, unaware of the problem until he was rushed to a hospital.

It took several months for Vicious to recover and when he did, he returned to the NWA with the promotion not sure what role he should be playing. In the first match back, he did a five second job for Lex Luger on one of the Clash specials. The announcers mentioned his punctured lung which indicated a babyface turn.

Instead of coming back as a baby, he joined the four horsemen and continued as a heel. A turn was hinted at several times as he wrestled other heels (Nightstalker on a Clash), but the turn was never completed. Despite his persona, he still receives a considerable amount of cheers from fans who are awestruck by his impressive size.

While recovering in the hospital, he was courted by Titan personnel. Nothing ever came of the veiled offers Titan made until recently.

In the middle of his contract with World Championship Wrestling, Vicious decided to ask for a new renegotiated contract that would net him an additional \$100,00 per year. Vicious and WCW agreed to an offer, but Vicious backed out and decided to sit out the rest of his contract. He will probably join the WWF after September when his current contract with WCW expires.

 MEMPHIS

with help from Bill Burnett

Bill's on vacation this time around, so news from the home of Elvis and Mud Island is a little slow.

We do know that WCW lost their TV slot locally and that they have pulled all future shows out of the Mid South Coliseum. That leaves the Mid South hosting only an occasional Titan card, which can't make the upper management any too happy. They said at one point, that losing Jarrett wouldn't hurt them because they would just contract with other national groups. Well, there went one of them. I doubt if Titan can draw enough six to eight times a year to make up for the loss of revenue from Jarrett's weekly show there.

Lawler began his six week vacation, but I wouldn't be surprised to see him back before the time is up, if nothing else, not to wrestle but to just accompany someone to ringside. The first week of his self imposed exile drew less than half what they had done the week before. Hogan is important to the WWF, but I think that Jerry Lawler may be more important to the Memphis promotion.

Downtown Bruno lost his hair in a hair vs hair match against JC Ice Baby (Jamie Dundee) on a Monday night card a couple weeks ago. Bruno came out on TV the next week with a ripped tee-shirt, cupping his hand to his ear, and doing the frontal crab bodybuilding pose. He tried to rip the tee shirt off, but he wasn't strong enough. Bruno is about the size of one of Hogan's legs.

While Lawler is gone, Eddie Gilbert will assume the role of the top babyface and will lead the contingent of Tennessee wrestlers against the Texas entourage. As mentioned last issue, Jeff Jarrett has gotten Robert Fuller to join their fold against the Texans and that will no doubt set up a turn shortly down the road.

What if...

It's fun time again here at *Wrestling Forum*. Let's say that all of a sudden, congress passed a bill outlawing professional wrestling. All the wrestlers in the world would be unemployed. What kind of jobs do you think they'd get? Here's a sample from our convoluted minds...

BOBBY HEENAN – a directory assistance operator..."You want a number for who? Hey, pal, go down to the john at the bar downtown. I saw it written there last week!"

ULTIMATE WARRIOR – a jackhammer operator. From the way he shakes the ring ropes on the way in, he's already got the basic motion down.

ARN ANDERSON – an investment counselor. "The bottom line is..."

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER – spokesman for Gillette. "I get the closest shaves and the deepest cuts..."

STAN HANSEN & MEAN MARK (UNDERTAKER) – they can open a flower shop together.

EARTHQUAKE JOHN TENTA - he can be hired as their delivery person.

JAKE ROBERTS - a pet store owner

RICK STEINER - he starts a collection agency for bad checks and bad debts. His employees include Jimmy Snuka, the Samoans, brother Scott and Ron Simmons.

HAKU - a fast food restaurant that specializes in "bite sized" burgers.

RIC FLAIR - Becomes a preacher in the Wedding Chapels in Las Vegas. Now he can help others "walk the aisle."

HULK HOGAN - Roller skating instructor. He can teach people how to throw one leg out in front of them when they fall and land comfortably on their butt.

THE SHEEPHERDERS – Spokesmen for the National Dental Association.

DUSTY RHODES – He can rent himself out to fill hot air balloons just by talking into them.

PAUL E DANGEROUSLY – Salesman for long distance services

VERNE GAGNE – Never mind...he hasn't been the the wrestling promoting business for more than ten years now.

Those are some suggestions on short notice. Can you come up with some more or some that are even more appropriate?

World Wrestling Federation

Brutus Beefeake was a guest on Prime Time Wrestling on the USA network a week or so ago, and it actually made the program worth watching. Although they didn't go into a lot of detail on how the accident happened, they did show X-Rays of Brutus' face with the 30 or so bolts and angle irons that hold it in place. The rest of the show was pretty poor with Brutus assaulting a member of the audience under the guise of giving him a haircut (hope the stooge was well paid). In other words, it wasn't much different from the TNT episode that aired a few years ago.

Bobby Heenan had a cruel, heartless line that had me on the floor (can I help it if I have a sick sense of humor?). He said that he understood that Brutus had left wrestling and was playing hockey. Something about him having a "face-off."

I can tell I'm getting old. Vince is starting to recycle angles...or at least he's got plans to.

Roddy Piper has been wrestling Ted DiBiase around the country and some of the endings are with Sherri interfering. The second trip around will have a new member added to the cast. "Her" name will be Virgilina according to the plan.

This is basically the same exact thing they did with George Steele and Georgetta a few years ago. But, Vince figures he has a turnover in fans about every three to four years so, he can probably get by with it. Here's hoping this is one of those ideas that he lets just kind of slide by the wayside.

Speaking of endings of matches, looks like we'll be seeing Hogan versus Slaughter through most of the summer. They're running a couple of different endings around the country, depending on future plans for that particular city. In cities that they're not returning to soon, they do a clean finish. In other places, Hogan is being disqualified for using a chair. Slaughter throws fire, but Hogan blocks it with a chair and then the referee catches Hogan with said chair. It sets up return matches that they are dubbing "A Desert Storm Match." Pinfalls do not count in these matches, the winner must be determined by submission.

Ricky Steamboat has signed over the rights to the name "Ricky 'the Dragon' Steamboat" to Titan for the next two years. Rick (Richard Blood) owns the trademark on the name. They have requested that he not "wrestle" during his matches, but stick exclusively to the martial arts gimmick. Even though Titan leased the Steamboat name, they won't be using it.

We all know that Wrestlemania did very poorly in the buy rate department but now Titan has come out with some new figures (manufactured or not, we don't know) to "prove" that Wrestlemania VII was the most watched show in PPV history. They are now claiming that each subscription netted somewhere between six and ten viewers. I wonder if that includes the people who got tapes made of the show.

The video is already in the video stores and has been for some time now. Locally, video stores report that rentals are good. The video made it to the stores in record time.

We'll probably be hearing from women's activists again (and with good reason). They did a little angle on TV this past weekend with Sherri asking Andre the Giant if she could be his manger. Andre grabbed her, smiled, then turned her over his knee and spanked her.

Hulk Hogan has a new 900 hotline that features some sort of trivia game as well. Sorry, it's *Wrestling Forum's* policy not to publish 900 numbers.

Hot Ticket is the name of the new WWF PPV. This one is being marketed in the same way that the WCW Japan Supershow was marketed with a reduced price and several showings during the month.

Some departures to report...Looks like Dino Bravo is gone. Reports are that he walked out of the promotion sometime in the past couple of weeks. Rick Martel may also be gone as he's been missing dates right and left. We're not sure on his current status. Also, Brian Adams, better known as Demolition Crush, is not even being mentioned so we assume he is gone as well. Smash, in the meantime, continues to job on house shows.

This next is interesting...Janet Jackson is planning to sue the WWF over Titan using the name "Nasty Boys." She did a song of that title some time back and is claiming that they are infringing on her copyright. I could see that if the song had just come out and they had just named themselves that, but the Nasty Boys have been around a while and have some national exposure, including PPVs. This ought to work against Jackson in her suit, I would imagine. One caller said that if she sues the WWF, then she needs to go after the Cincinnati Reds as well for them using the name for their relief corps. A Titan source said that since Jackson has cooled off, this is probably just an attempt for her to ride the coattails of wrestling to success again. Huh? I'd watch it if I were them...her weird brother might buy the WWF and really turn it into a zoo.

Everyone assumes that since Sid Vicious is headed in (and he isn't able to sign a contract until September or so) that he and Hogan will headline Wrestlemania VIII. One Titanite that I've talked to doesn't seem to think so. His idea (and this is just two fans talking and speculating - there are no plans to do this) is to bring Vicious in as a babyface. He'll be on Hogan's side and help Hogan out of plenty of jams. This way, he'll be set up as another monster who can turn on Hogan and pop a really big crowd, peaking at perhaps Wrestlemania IX (or even VIII...there would be time to turn him prior to it). Not a bad idea if you ask me. That way, Wrestlemania VIII can have Hogan vs Undertaker which is a natural match up (stuff Hogan in the body bag ahead of the show).

Vince had threatened the management of the Arena in St. Louis that if they booked the place with any other wrestling group (namely WCW), he'd pull all his shows. Now we'll get to see if he was all mouth or not. WCW

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has a show booked there on 6/14.

The latest Saturday Night's Main Event was broadcast this past Saturday night. I'll make the assumption that most of you saw it, so instead of giving a match by match run down, here's just some scattered thoughts and highlights.

In the Battle Royal, Curt Hennig won it by tossing out Greg Valentine. Battle royals are hard to grade and usually just a throw away match, but they used this one to set up what looks like will be an angle for the future. Hogan was eliminated by Tugboat. This isn't the first time Hogan has turned his back on Tugboat only to have him try an eliminate him from a battle royal. This should be setting up a new feud for Hogan once the Slaughter thing runs its course. Look for something along the lines of Tugboat being jealous of the champion to trigger the turn.

Bret Hart and Ted DiBiase's match, which ended in a double count out, was good, especially by WWF standards, but there still seemed to be something lacking. These two had the capability of putting on a match of the year candidate, but somehow, and I just can't put my finger on it, it just missed being that type of classic. It's definitely a "keeper" for video tape enthusiasts. If you can come up with an explanation for what it was missing, other than a clean finish, let me know.

In the highlight of the night, and an angle that lacked nothing, the Undertaker destroyed Ultimate Warrior. The match with Warrior and Slaughter wasn't that good, but when Percy wheeled that coffin to ringside and Mean Mark sat straight up, it sent goosebumps up my arms. Not that it was scary or freaky (it was that, but in a different way), but it was done superbly. Mark slowly rotated his head until his stare caught Warrior, then all hell broke loose. Remember this one when we do voting for angle of the year next year.

Ricky Steamboat may not be breathing fire at shows much longer. He's not real happy about having to wear that silly dragon costume to the ring anyway (gee Rick, what did you think your kid was frowning about when you brought him to the ring in one back in the NWA?), but the fire breathing gimmick just isn't working out. Rick fills his mouth with a power that, when spewed onto a flame, flashes brightly like flash paper. I don't know what Rick is doing wrong, but we've had a couple of reports where the flames just didn't shoot out and he had to try it again. It doesn't work the second time either and as a result, the audience laughs. Rick has asked to quit doing it, but for now, McMahon insists that he practice and try it. Where the heck do you practice stuff like that? The hotel room?

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

4/18 NORMAL, IL (WWF) - courtesy of **KNOX BLOCKOFF**... IRS beat Superfly Snuka (C)...Dragon pinned Haku (D-)...Earthquake beat Jake by DQ (D)...Rockers defeated Orient Express (C+)...DiBiase over Virgil (D)...Road Warriors beat Nasty Boys by COR (C)...Slaughter over Dugan (F)... **NOTES:** Attendance: 2500...Slaughter Dugan was boot camp match..Sherri at ringside for Ted was excellent...Earthquake almost splashed snake before Jake made save.

4/19 BOSTON (IND) - courtesy of **VINNIE CAROLAN**...Bill Wilcox drew Brian Bugle (C+)...Jamie West DDQ Brittany Brown (D-)... Davey Jones beat Mike Bernard (D+)...Jason the Horrible pinned Tony Roy (F)...Karate Master Richard Byrne defeated Bruce Battalia (D)...Alter Boys over Mad Dog Richard and Chris Duffy (C-)...Honky Tonk Man DDQ Nicolai Volkoff (D)...**NOTES:** Attendance: 800 ...card was taped for TV...Jason attacked ring announcer Mel Simmons who bladed...Chris Duffy worked well and newcomer Bill Wilcox has a lot of potential.

4/20 TAMPA (SWA) - courtesy of **SHANNON ROSE**...Keno McKenzie pinned Tom Sawyer...Sgt. Ray the Bull beat Nuclear Assassin #1...Big Sonny T & Tommy Starr defeated Man Mountain Brody & Ian Weston...Greenpeace (Southern title) beat Mohammed Studd by COR...Bad Boys (GQ Kevin Scott & Bobby Pretty Boy Mercedes) over Dynamite Express...Playboy Jeff James DCOR Denny Brown...Jerry Flynn beat Lebanese Assassin...**NOTES:** Attendance: 300...Lebanese Assassin seconded by hairstylist of the Wrestlers Miss Lynn who fixed his hair each time he messed it up...

4/20 BOSTON (WWF) - courtesy of **VINNIE CAROLAN**...Bret Hart drew Barbarian (C)...Rick Steamboat pinned Haku (C)...DiBiase over Piper by TKO (see notes) (A-)...Kerry Von Erich DCOR Warlord (D-)...Slaughter over Hogan by DQ (C+)...Bezerker pinned Tugboat (F)...Hennig defeated Davey Boy (C+)...Rockers beat Orient Express (B-)...**NOTES:** Attendance: 9500... Slaughter threw fire at Hogan who blocked it with a chair. He was then DQ'd for using the chair...Referee stopped DiBiase-Piper match when Ted had Roddy in a figure four and he (with a hurt leg) couldn't get out of it...Piper got a Hogan-esque reaction from the crowd.

4/27 ST LOUIS (WCW) - courtesy of **CHRIS MARTIN**...Brad Armstrong beat Rip Rogers (C)...Big Josh over Dutch Mantell (D-)...Dustin Rhodes pinned Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker (B-)...Brian Pillman defeated El Cubano (David Sierra) (D)...Steiners downed Stan Hansen/Master Blaster Kevin Nash (C)...Luger DDQ Nikita (D)...Ron Simmons pinned Butch Reed (C+)...Sting/El Gigante over Ric Flair/Arn Anderson... **NOTES:**...Attendance: 2000...this was the last event ever to be held in the Kiel Auditorium before it is torn down...Everyone was chanting "Matt Borne" at Josh...Simmons and Reed had some nice stiff stuff outside the ring...after the match they beat on Simmons for the longest time...Rick Steiner and Stan Hansen worked most of their match...no stiff stuff; they respected each other.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME: Sorry we don't have time to answer a lot of questions personally, but a few have stacked up so here goes:

For those of you wanting to know if the Forum being late was my fault of the post office's fault, it really a combination of both. We've been busy around here and that's put us behind more often than not. Combine that with the printer, who has quit offering us same day service and the fact that all the mail sorting operations have been moved from a local location to Peoria (50 miles away) and you get an idea of why we're coming out later than usual. We complained to the postal people and found that they thought we were mailing at a third class rate and therefore, they weren't processing the Forums on the same day they received them. Hopefully that problem has been corrected with the big letters that say **FIRST CLASS** on the back.

Magnum TA (Terry Allen) is back with WCW after a long absence. He was removed from his announcing position shortly after Ted Turner took over and Dusty Rhodes left the company. Now that Dusty is back, so is Magnum, but he's working behind the scenes in the office.

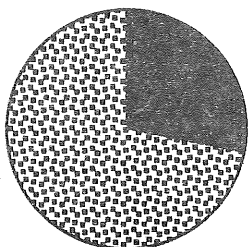
We've had a request to do a glossary of inside terms used in this bulletin. We may do that in a future issue. We just assume that everyone knows what we're talking about when we say stuff like Bump, Job, Blade, etc. that we don't bother to explain. We do have quite a few new readers so we'll try to plan that for an upcoming issue.

Medussa Micelli recently sang the American national anthem at the semi-finals of the international rugby tournament. The semi finals pitted the US against Japan, and I believe the United States won the match.

As you may have known, we had some problems with the computer, the program and the Results From All Over section over the past few months. I think we've got it figured out now and we'll be able to keep the computer from eating results from now on. Keep 'em coming.

That's it for another issue. Good Lord willin' and the creeks don't rise, we'll see you back here in a couple weeks. Thanks for reading. Bye.

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